

A1

signal voltages, amplifies the difference signal by a gain so as to set the difference signal within a requested range of a digital encoding analog input level, and outputs the difference signal

Page 17, lines 9-14, delete the paragraph and insert therefor the following paragraph:

A2

The foregoing constituent components of the pixel 101 are covered with a light transmissive insulating film, and a region other than that of a light-receiving window 24 of the photo diode 111 is shielded from a light by a metal layer (light shielding film) 23 formed on the insulating film.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1, 2 and 3.

A3

Replace claim 4 with the following amended claim 4:

— 4 (Amended). A solid-state imaging device in which an optical signal is converted into an electric signal, the electric signal is converted into a digital signal, and the digital signal is outputted, comprising:

(a) a plurality of photoelectric conversion devices arrayed in rows and columns, for converting the optical signal into the electric signal and outputting a signal voltage;

(b) a variable gain amplifier provided for each of the columns, the variable gain amplifier including

(i) an input terminal of the variable gain amplifier for sequentially inputting a first signal voltage obtained from a corresponding photoelectric conversion device of the plurality of photoelectric conversion devices be converting an optical signal into an